at ICRISAT, Hyderabad, in association with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. Another 31 Village Resource Centres are being set up in 8 districts (Adilabad, Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Krishna, Nalgonda and West Godavari) in association with the B.Y.R. Raju Foundation and the Dhan Foundation.

Funds for Gram Panchayats

347. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government provide some funds to State Governments by directly allocating the same to Gram Panchayats;

(b) the purpose of sending funds to Panchayats directly;

(c) the mechanism of verification of the fact that each Panchayat has received allocated amount and has properly utilized the same;

(d) the funds provided to the State Government of Rajasthan for allocating the same to Panchayats during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(e) the average share per Panchayat in above allocations; and

(f) whether this is adequate?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No Sir. At present the Central Government does not directly allocate any funds to Gram Panchayats.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Funds are allocated to Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Central Finance Commission grants. During the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, the total release of funds under SGRY by the Central Government to the Government of Rajasthan was Rs. 254.70 crores. In addition to this, a totai of 199924 tonnes of foodgrains (rice and wheat) were also authorized for the State under the Scheme.

2. The 12th Finance Commission recommended a grant of Rs. 20,000 crore for the period 2005-10 to augment the Consolidated Fund of the

State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats on the basis of the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions. These grants are released to the State Governments for allocating the same to Panchayats in two equal instalments in July and January each year. Rajasthan has been allocated a total amount of Rs. 1230 crore for the period 2005-2010. So far it has secured both the instalments of 2005-06 amounting to a sum of Rs. 246 crore.

(e) The allocations under SGRY are made to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at District, Block and Village levels in the ratio of 20:30:50. The average share per Gram Panchayat for SGRY allocations would, therefore, come to Rs. 1.38 lakhs for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The 12th Finance Commission grants are to be released to the three tiers of Panchayats as per the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions. Out of the 1st and the 2nd instalments of Rs. 123 crore each, the State Government has allocated Rs. 6.15 crore to the 32 Zilla Parishads, Rs. 24.60 crore to the 237 Panchayat Samities and Rs. 92.25 crore to the 9188 Gram Panchayats. On this basis, the average amount for each Gram Panchayat works out to around Rs. 2 lakh for 2005-06. The State is yet to draw the 1st instalment of 2006-07 which has become due from July, 2006. The next instalment of the current year would become due in January, 2007.

(f) The allocation of resouces under SGRY is made as per the detailed guidelines laid down for the purpose. As regards the 12th Finance Commission grants, the *inter-se* allocation among States has already been decided by the 12th Finance Commission itself on the basis of the following factors and weights:

Criterion		Weight (per cent)
(i)	Population	40
(ii)	Geographical area	10
(iii)	Distance from highest per capita income	20
(iv)	Index of deprivation	10
(v)	Revenue effort	20
	of which	
	(a) with respect to own revenue of States	10
	(b) with respect to GSDP	10

These funds may be considered inadequate to meet the requirements of the Panchayats to effectively undertake the powers and responsibilities devolved to them. Panchayats would need a matching transfer of funds in respect of the devolved functions, the make up this inadequacy. This will require the entrustment of all budget allocations pertaining to the activities devolved upon Panchayats to the respective levels, through the creation of a Panchayat Sector in the State Budget.

In the Statement of conclusions arrived at after the visit of the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj to Rajasthan from 2nd to 4th December 2005, the Government of Rajasthan has stated that it hopes to complete the process of creation of a Panchayat Sector in the State Budget, in the Budget document of 2006-07.

Discretionary powers to civil servants

348. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to give discretionary powers to civil servants despite the existing to suit the present conditions across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that flaws in governance result in under performance of employees, inefficient and corrupt bureaucracy, cost overruns and low returns on development programmes; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government of India has constituted the second Administrative Reforms Commission for preparing a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administration system. The Commission has been requested to make its recommendations, *inter-alia,* covering enhancing performance of civil servants, upgradation of their skills and competencies and strengthening financial management systems.